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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/374,681	09/19/2002	CRAIG H. BAKER	81762/210	4027

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, SON V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 07/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/374,681

Applicant(s)
Baker et al.

Examiner
Son Nguyen

Art Unit
2839



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Aug 16, 1999 is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page numbers are missing.

The title is missing in a first page of the specification. In second page, line 10, according to the objection of the drawing, it appears that "A-A" should be changed to --5-5--.

In third page of the specification, line 16, it appears that "enought" should be changed to -enough--. In line 11 and 19, reference characters "14" has been used to designate both "spring contacts" and "cantilevered beam".

In fourth page of the specification, last line, it appears that "What we claim is:" should be moved to the beginning of the page which including the claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because of the following:

a) Ends of the arrows in the view from which the sectional view is taken should be designated by Arabic or Roman numerals corresponding to the figure number of the section view (37 CFR 1.84 (h) (3)). Thus in figure 2, "A-A" should be changed to --5-5--.

b) In figure 5, the reference arrow without numeral reference should be deleted.

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A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1-5 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 4, it appears that “having :” should be changed to -;--. In lines 6-7, there is no antecedent basis for “the mating pin and socket contacts.” The phrase “upon disconnection of the mating pin and socket contacts” is unclear to how a single mating pin being connected to a plurality of socket contacts. Applicant s should clarify “upon disconnection of the mating pin and socket contacts.”

In claim 5, line 3, it appears that “contactitself” should be changed to --contact itself--.

Claims 2-4 have the defects of claim 1.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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5. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, lines 10-13, the recited limitation “a pin contact engaging surface positioned at a maximum distance from the socket contact bore axis that is greater than the maximum transverse dimension of the pin contact” is unclear and indefinite because the maximum distance from a pin contact engaging surface to a socket contact bore axis is only half distance of a diameter of the socket bore and it should not be greater than the maximum transverse dimension of a pin contact. It appears that applicants intended that pin contact engaging surfaces positioned at a maximum distance across the socket contact bore axis that is greater than the maximum transverse dimension of the pin contact. Applicant should clarify what applicants intend by “a pin contact engaging surface positioned at a maximum distance from the socket contact bore axis that is greater than the maximum transverse dimension of the pin contact.”

Claims 2-4 have the defects of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Childs (US 5,681,190).

The claimed invention reads on Childs by examiner's interpretation as follows:

Regarding claim 1, Childs discloses an electrical socket contact [10, figure 4] for mating with a pin contact [34, figure 1] comprising:

- an electrically conductive barrel body [figure 4] having a pin contact engaging axial bore along a socket contact axis [26];
- two forward edge portions [50, figure 2] integrally formed in the body are read on applicant's at least two integrally formed pin contact arc receiving elements upon the connecting and disconnecting of the pin contact and the socket contact;
- two flexible tabs [40, 41, figure 2] integrally formed in the body are read on applicant's a plurality of integrally formed, cantilevered spring contacts; and
- the pin contact arc receiving elements having a pin contact engaging surface position [58] at a maximum distance from the socket contact axis that is greater than the maximum transverse dimension of the pin contact [see attachment for examiner's interpretation].

Regarding claim 3, Childs further discloses dimples [58] are read on applicant's the arc receiving elements comprise stamped inwardly extending projections.

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Regarding claim 4, Childs further discloses the socket contact is formed a single sheet of material [figure 2];

Regarding claim 5, the engagement of the socket contact with the pin contact takes place in the sequence of : first contact with the socket contact itself (forwardmost edge, 56', figure 4), then the arc receiving elements [58] and then the spring contacts [40, 41].

All the elements recited in the claims are read in the reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Childs in view of Gallusser et al. (US 4,272,149).

Childs discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for an aperture forming a solder pot in conjunction with the bore of the body.

Matthews teaches an open termination can be provided on a contact for soldering or welding a wire to the contact [column 3, lines 53-56].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the contact of Childs to provide the open termination as taught by Gallusser

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et al. in order to facilitate soldering and providing a permanent electrical connection between the wire and the contact, as is well known in the art of the electrical connector.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Matthews (US 5,431,576) and Strack (US 6,068,498) discloses electrical sockets with sparking or arcing protections.

Macioce et al. (US 5,628,656) discloses an electrical socket comprises a barrel body.

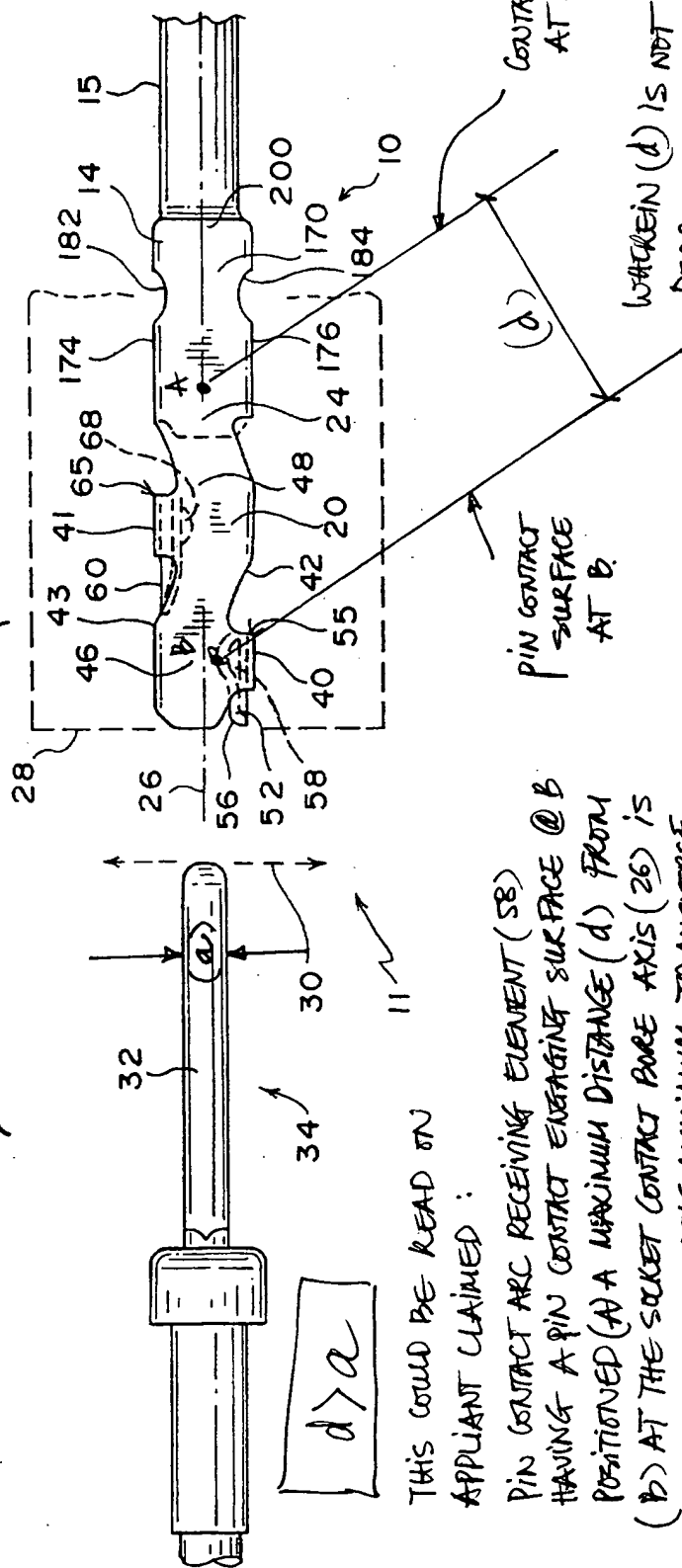
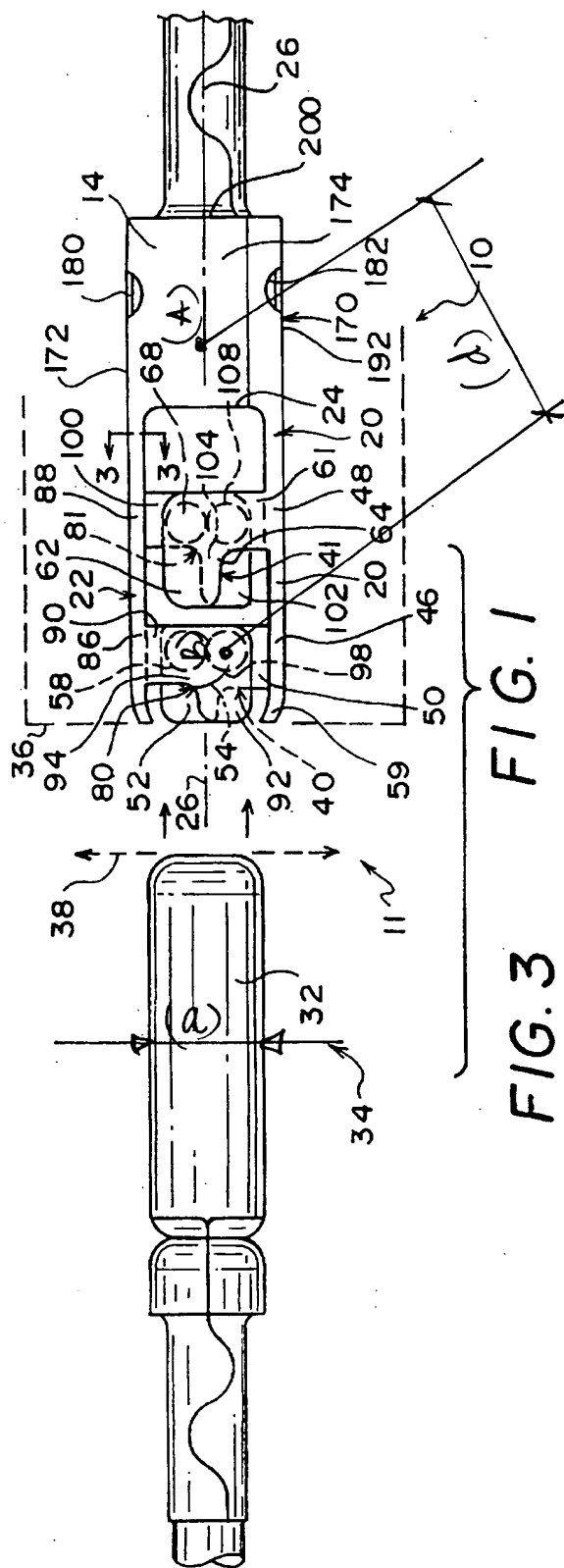
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-8745.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild, can be reach on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.



Son Nguyen
Examiner
GAU: 2839



THIS COULD BE READ ON

APPLICANT CLAIMED :

PIN CONTACT ARC RECEIVING ELEMENT (SB)
HAVING A PIN CONTACT ENGAGING SURFACE @ B
POSITIONED (A) A MAXIMUM DISTANCE (d) FROM
(B) AT THE SOCKET CONTACT BORE AXIS (26) IS
GREATER THAN THE MAXIMUM TRANSVERSE
DIMENSION OF PIN CONTACT (34)

PIN CONTACT
SURFACE
AT B.

AT A
OUTLET

WATERIN (d) IS NOT
PERPENDICULAR TO (26)

ATTACHMENT